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*La colonisation et les colonies allemandes.* Par ANDRÉ CHÉRADAME. (Paris: Plon-Nourrit. 1905. Pp. 485.)

We have in this volume of M. Chéradame a careful study of the various German colonies, drawn from German sources. The book is exceedingly well written, and, in the treatment of his subject, the author shows the same intellectual grip of his facts that characterizes other works from the same pen.

M. Chéradame wastes little time discussing theories of colonization, holding that, so far at least as German colonies are concerned, theories cut very little figure. In a compact introduction he sketches in clear outline the "*preliminaries de la colonisation*," and traces the development of the German colonial spirit. The tardiness of Germany in seeking to extend her sway over distant portions of the earth is ascribed to the fact that while, during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, other great powers were active in securing colonial possessions, Germany lacked both a national spirit and a governmental unity.

When, in the latter half of the nineteenth century, Germany had become one people and had welded the diverse States into an empire, she found but little scope for the exploitation of a colonizing spirit, save in the more or less tropical zones of the earth. In addition to this condition of things without her borders, she had to contend with a policy within, which refused to consider any interest as vital to the German government which lay beyond her own boundaries. Bismarck believed firmly in a strongly intensive work on the empire itself. Save for the protection he afforded certain German commercial companies doing business at distant points, he gave little aid to colonial enterprises. A distinct and aggressive colonial policy had no place in Bismarck's scheme of things.

Meanwhile the work of List and Friedel, the labors of savants and travelers, who compassed the earth in the interest of German learning had begun to bear fruit in a new attitude toward German problems. Economic forces compelled Germany to look beyond her own frontiers. The intensive policy of Bismarck gave place to the wider outlook and world politics of William II. The colonial enterprises of Germany have been pushed with perseverance and tenacity for twenty years. And it may be affirmed that, in general, the results obtained do not seem to correspond to the efforts put forth.

"At the present time there is not a single German colony which is sufficient unto itself, and there is a sacrifice annually of more millions than ought to be imposed upon the empire in order to cover the discrepancy that exists between the receipts and the expenditures. And if, from the commercial point of view, the acquisition of the colonies has opened outlets for German industry, it must be remarked that such outlets are very inconsiderable, and that these peoples situated in the enervating tropics, have small need of manufactured products. The proportion added by the colonies to the sum total of German commerce annually, represents only an infinitesimal part of that total, and does not at all correspond, at this moment, to the sacrifices imposed on the nation in order to gain it.

In spite of the pessimistic impressions which the situation actually warrants, if one should avoid a forced admiration and optimism in his judgments with respect to German colonial operations, he should also shun the opposite extreme. Besides the faults and errors committed, many good results have been shown, which are an expression of the real qualities of the German genius. One need only point, in this respect, to the intelligence and perseverance evidenced in scientific research, in exploration, in attempts at improvement of land, in efforts devoted to the spread of instruction and the engendering of a taste for work among the natives. If the economic results obtained up to the present time are small, one must not forget that German colonization dates back scarcely more than twenty years, that it represents only a period of tentative endeavor, in the course of which the inevitable political and administrative mistakes have proven prejudicial to the economic development.

It should be borne in mind always and everywhere, that the German colonies are situated in tropical regions, as little fitted for European life as for a rapid economic evolution.

The most just conclusion which can be reached with respect to the German colonies seems to have been set forth in that melancholy pronouncement of M. de Tattenbach, ambassador of William II., at Morocco, made recently at Tangier: "The other powers have great colonies, in which they are able to favor their own commerce by special tariffs. The colonies of Germany are few in number and they are small."

The real question, in fact, is this: Whether the government in Berlin will content itself with accepting this situation of a colonial

checkmate, or whether it will not seek to secure for itself lands beyond the sea, which it now lacks, at the expense of other powers, which are in possession of to the disadvantage of Germany.

Now, England, and more especially France, has colonies that seem to correspond to German needs.

That is why, in the last resort, the colonial problem of Germany is at bottom the problem of continental Europe; that is why it is one of the mightiest elements in world politics.

The book is divided into three parts, the first of which deals with the foundation of the German colonies, the second with the juristic condition of the colonies, and the third with a description of them, together with an exposition of their administrative organization and economic development. Each part is preceded by a careful introduction. Subjoined to the volume are numerous statistical tables, showing the various important items in the economic development of the German colonies. Several valuable maps also accompany the work.

M. Chéradame has, as a matter of course, handled his subject in a masterly way, with a keen insight and a judicial temper, which renders the book of great value to students of colonial affairs.

BURT ESTES HOWARD.

*Municipal Ownership in Great Britain.* By HUGO RICHARD MEYER. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1906. Pp. 339.)

It might be interesting to gather together the views of the Belmonts, Ryans, Elkins, Weidners and other franchise owners on the question of municipal ownership. But it would not be a treatise on municipal ownership. Neither is the volume under review. It is, rather, an attempt to show the evil influence of State interference in any form with industry. The testimony of the Senate committee on interstate commerce, taken while the Hepburn rate bill was under discussion, would be very convincing to the railway officials who were called to testify to the exclusion of other witnesses. But it did not convince the country that anarchy and confusion would follow an attempt on the part of the government to regulate railway abuses.

Dr. Meyer has written a book which bears witness to the disapproval of municipal ownership by the financial interests of Great Britain. He has taken his material largely from the joint select parliamentary